DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 050 747 LI 002 806

AUTHOR Osborn, Andrew D.
TITLE A Dual System for Indexing Library and Information Literature.
INSTITUTION State Univ. of New York, Albany.
PUB DATE 68
NOTE 14p.; Paper prepared for the Conference on the Bibliographic Control of Library Science Literature, State University of New York at Albany, April 19-20, 1968

EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Bibliographies, *Computer Programs, Conferences, *Evaluation, *Indexing, Information Needs, Information Science, *Information Services, Library Science
IDENTIFIERS Library Literature, *Library Science Literature

ABSTRACT

Two overall levels of bibliographical control are desirable: one should be as complete as possible; the other should be a selection of prime items whose titles are organized for ease and effectiveness of consultation and decision making about the texts which are worth looking up; and this selection should be the aim of a complementary computer service. Recommendations of this study are: "Library Literature" should be continued and developed as the inclusive bibliographical control for the library and information field. Its style should change; entries should be more akin to those in the "Readers' Guide," very desirably in conjunction with research into the most effective style and type of entry for rapid scanning in long lists. Under any heading, entries should be arranged in inverse chronological order. Attention should be paid to semantics so headings will be used reasonably precisely, and to aid in this development semantic studies should be undertaken. In making "Library Literature" truly comprehensive, consideration should also be given to coverage for the earlier volumes of titles recently incorporated or still to be included. A complementary service should be planned. Undoubtedly this should be a computer record developed and maintained along cooperative lines. (see also LI 002 796 through LI 002 805 and LI 002 807). (Author/NH)

ED050747

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

A DUAL SYSTEM FOR INDEXING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION LITERATURE

by

Andrew D. Osborn, Dean
School of Library and Information Science
The University of Western Ontario

CONFERENCE ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL
OF LIBRARY SCIENCE LITERATURE

State University of New York at Albany
April 19-20, 1968

LI 002 806

ED050747

A DUAL SYSTEM FOR INDEXING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION LITERATURE

The torrent of information in all fields of knowledge has reached the stage at which it is becoming clear that two overall levels of bibliographical control are desirable. One of them should be as complete as possible; this degree of coverage should be the aim of published indexing and abstracting services. The other should be a selection of prime items whose titles are skillfully organized and displayed for ease and effectiveness of (1) consultation and (2) decision making about the texts which are worth the time and effort of looking up; and this selection should be the aim of a complementary computer service.

These observations apply as well to the library and information area as they do to chemistry, medicine, or any other specialty. We too need both types of service. As things stand, it is not an uncommon experience to check ten apparently promising titles drawn from Library Literature only to discover, after recourse to the texts themselves, that nine out of the ten are of no value whatsoever. Such experiences lead to the inevitable conclusion that Library Literature should (1) be continued as an inclusive indexing service; (2) become appreciably more inclusive than it is; and (3) be complemented by a computer service which would contain no entries that are not of prime current research value. The distinction between the two levels of service is akin to that between a historical

research library, which serves the historian and the bibliographer equally as well as the current researcher, and the working research library whose objectives are more limited and precise.

Form and Organization of the Entries

The question is not altogether one of inclusiveness and selectivity; it is also one which asks what is the most effective form and organization of the entries for maximum convenience of consultation and decision making. In its present makeup Library Literature is a somewhat difficult tool to use, much more so than the typical H. W. Wilson index, because of its reliance on the cataloging style of entry. Quite definitely a major hindrance to effective use of Library Literature is the passive nature of cataloging-style entries; in themselves they make no positive contribution either to ease of scanning listings or to selection of items to be checked. By this is meant, for example, that under any heading the alphabetical listing by author's name does not, by and large, contribute to a decision to look into an item; it may help when the author's name is well known and he is recognized as an authority worth listening to; but for the most part the name is nothing more than so many words between the reader and the substantive part of the entry, the part filled with meaning, the part which most commonly lies at the basis of selection or rejection of a title. The intrusion of prefatory words is felt all the more when a long corporate name precedes the title; e.g., "Geo rgia. Department of Education. Division of Instructional Materials and Library Services."

Since the day is already at hand when extremely long bibliographical listings, extremely long computer printouts, occur and can be expected to occur with greater and greater frequency, the matter and form of entries takes on special significance in the psychology of decision making and of undertaking what after all is a somewhat difficult kind of reading, namely disjointed bibliographical descriptions. In the library field there is a logic to cataloging types of entry; but in substantive bibliographies and printouts in this or any other field that methodology may do more harm than good. So in replanning Library Literature the arrangement of entries according to cataloging form should be discontinued, even if it raises questions of the best way to intermingle the listings for books and journal articles. In that event the reader will be helped when he reads a title such as Basic Reference Books for Georgia Public Libraries; with one eye movement he will grasp whether the item interests him or not for his immediate purpose, this without having to contend with the eleven words of the corporate entry which were cited at the end of the previous paragraph. In this instance, when the substantive part of the entry precedes the cataloging-style heading, the reader can take the eleven words into account or disregard them altogether depending on the interest aroused by the title; the converse is not true.

One other simple aid needs to be brought out. In the era of extensive listings, entries should be arranged in inverse chronological order to emphasize the most recent contributions. So Library Literature, in addition to giving priority to the substantive part of the entry, should help the reader by arranging entries in inverse chronological order.

Some of the evidence which supports these statements follows. It was prepared as an aid in determining the form of a book catalog. The entries were taken from the 1959 volume of Library Literature.

Reference books

Bagley, W. A. Facts and how to find them. Pitman '58 135p.

Cheney, F. R. Current reference books. See monthly issues of Wilson Lib Bul

Clarke, J. A. comp. Research materials in the social sciences. Univ. of Wisconsin Press '59 42p.

Glennan, C. N. Reference books and reviews. '59 17p
Thesis (M.S. in L.S.) Western Reserve University

Interview with Herbert Zim. Lib J 84:989-90 Mr 15; Jr Lib 5:117-18 Mr '59

Jackson, W. V. Specifics of interlibrary organization. (In Illinois. University. Graduate School of library science. Library as a community information center. Illini union bookstore '59 p36-50) bibliog

Noor, H. Urdu reference books. Pakistan Lib R 1:23-30 Mr '58

Sabor, J. E. Manual de fuentes de informacion. (Translation: Manual of information sources) Buenos Aires, Kapelusz '57 335p

Walford, A.J. ed. Guide to reference material. Library association '59 543p.

Bibliography

Bibliographical tools in the small library. Lib Assn Rec 60:338-9 N '58

Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore. Reference books. The library '59 117p

Focke, H. M. Reference books of 1958--a selection. Lib J 84:687-97 Mr 1 '59

Georgia. Department of education. Division of instructional materials and library services. Basic reference books for Georgia public libraries. The division '59 27p

Mary Alma, Sister, ed. Basic reference book list for Catholic high school libraries. San Francisco, Vroman's '59 [42p]

Mary Naomi, Sister, comp. Basic reference books for Catholic high school libraries. Villanova, Pa., Catholic lib, assn. '59 45p

North Carolina. Public instruction department. Reference materials for school libraries. Lib J 84:2714 S 15; Jr Lib 6:40 S '59

Winchell, C. M. Selected reference books of 1957-1958. Coll & Res Lib 20:17-26 Ja '59

Winchell, C. M. Selected reference books of 1958-1959. Coll & Res Lib 20:288-99+ Jl '59

Selection

Mitchell, B. M. Library as community information center. North Country Lib 1:1-10 Mr '59

Library Literature made these entries with a considerable amount of attention to conciseness. For example, the Library Literature main entry for the first item reads as follows:

> Bagley, William Alfred
> Facts and how to find them; a guide to sources of information and to the method of systematic research. 5th ed rev Pitman '58 135p.

In this respect the practice runs counter to cataloging theory which considers that subtitles are of most value under the subject heading. Computer practice varies; in some cases the amount of detail for author and subject listings is identical, in others the full information is under the subject. In any event the amount of detail should be reviewed in planning the future of Library Literature.

For purposes of comparison, now take the 1959 entries for reference books according to Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature style, but arranged in inverse chronological order.

Current reference books; ed. by F. N. Cheney. See issues of Wilson library bulletin

Guide to reference material; ed. by A. J. Walford. Library association '59 543p

Interview with Herbert Zim. Library J 84:989-90 [Jr Lib 5:117-18] Mr 15 '59

Reference books and reviews. C. N. Glennan. '59 17p Thesis (M.S. in L.S.) Western Reserve University

Research materials in the social sciences; comp. by J. A. Clarke. Univ. of Wisconsin press '59 42p

Specifics of interlibrary organization. W. V. Jackson (In Illinois. University. Graduate school of library science. Library as a community information center. Illini union bookstore. '59 p36-50) bibliog

Facts and how to find them. W. A. Bagley. Pitman '58 135p

Urdu reference books. H. Noor. Pakistan Lib R 1:23-30 Mr '58

Manual de fuentes de informacion (Translation: Manual of information sources) J. E. Sabor Buenos Aires, Kapelusz '57 335p

Bibliography

Basic reference book list for Catholic high school libraries; ed. by Sister Mary Alma. San Francisco, Vroman's '59 [42p]

Basic reference books for Catholic high school libraries; comp. by Sister Mary Naomi. Villanova, Pa., Catholic lib. assn. '59 45p

Basic reference books for Georgia public libraries. Georgia. Department of education. Division of instructional materials and library services. The division '59 27p

Reference books. Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore. The library '59 117p

Reference books of 1958--a selection; ed. by H. M. Focke. Library J 84:687-97 Mr 1 '59

Reference materials for school libraries. North Carolina. Public instruction department. Library J 84:2714 [Jr Lib 6:40] S 15 '59

Selected reference books of 1957-1958. C. M. Winchell. Coll & Res Lib 20:17-26 Ja '59

Selected reference books of 1958-1959. C. M. Winchell. Coll & Res Lib 20:288-99+ Jl '59

Bibliographical tools in the small library. Lib Assn Rec 60:338-9 N '58

Selection

Library as community information center. B. M. Mitchell. North Country Lib 1:1-10 Mr '59

These entries are not sufficiently comprehensive to show the value of inverse chronological order, but they do show the efficaciousness of having the title precede the author heading. As a rule, unless one wants to go further, the title is read and nothing more; the eye goes straight to the next entry if the title discloses that the item is not relevant.

There is one other matter of concern, however. Semantically there is much to be desired in the listings. Any one heading can cover a variety of meanings; and headings and subheadings are by no means mutally exclusive. The semantic problem really comes to the fore in listings in the Library of Congress subject catalog, as the following excerpt discloses.

Libraries--U. S.

American Library Association. Reference Services Division. Public Library Survey Committee.
Reference service in American public libraries serving populations of 10,000 or more; a report of a nationwide survey by the Public Library Reference Survey Committee. [Urbana] 1961.
22 p. 28 cm. (Illinois. University. Library School. Occasional papers no. 61)

Institute on the Nature and Development of the Library Collection, Robert Allerton Park, 1956.
The nature and development of the library collection; with special reference to the small and medium-sized public library. Champaign, Ill., Distributed by Illini Union Bookstore [1957]
vii, 139 p. diagrs. 23 cm. (Allerton Park Institute, no. 3)

Jackson, William Vernon.
A handbook of American library resources. 2d ed. Champaign, Ill., Distributed by the Illini Union Bookstore, 1962.
ix, 88 p. illus., maps. 28 cm.

Philadelphia Bibliographical Center and Union Library Catalogue. Committee on Microphotography.
Union list of microfilms; cumulation 1949-1959. [Eleanor Este Campion, editor] Ann Arbor, Mich., J. W. Edwards, 1961.
2v. (xviii p., 2800 columns) 29 cm.

Phinney, Eleanor.
A study of current practices in public library service to an aging population, an evaluative report. [Urbana] 1961.
19 p. illus. 28 cm. (Illinois. University. Library School. Occasional papers, no. 62)

Schick, Frank Leopold, 1918- ed.
The future of library service: demographic aspects and implications. Urbana, University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library Science, 1962 [c 1961)
286 p. diagrs., tables. 24 cm. (Illinois contributions to librarianship, no. 6)

U. S. Library of Congress.
Codification of general orders of the Library of Congress. Preliminary ed. [Washington] Office of the Executive Assistant, 1957-58.
10 v. (Loose-leaf) 27 cm.

This type of entry and its organization are uneconomical in the computer and inefficient from the user's point of view in a printout. So a possible rearrangement for the second level of overall bibliographical control, namely the computer record, might conceivably be:

1962
Future of library service Schick FL Illinois contributions to librarianship 6
Handbook of American library resources Jackson WV 2E Illini Union Bookstore

1961
Reference service in American public libraries Illinois Library School occasional papers 61
Study of current practices in public library service to an aging population Phinney E Illinois Library School occasional papers 62
Union list of microforms, cumulation 1949-59 Philadelphia Bibliographical Center Edwards

1957
Codification of general orders LC 1957-8 10v
Nature & development of the library collection Allerton Park Institute 3

On the evidence of the listings from Library Literature and the Library of Congress subject catalog, four points can well be made. (1) Semantic studies should be undertaken so terminology can be used precisely, all the more so in long lists and printouts. The researcher who is confronted by a different meaning for almost every entry, as is the case with the titles cited under "Libraries--U.S.," is hindered in his work; and it is not uncommon in the L.C. subject catalogue to find ten, twenty, or even fifty or more meanings under a single heading when a semantic count is made. (2) The art of listing entries clearly and

succinctly likewise should be studied. Researchers can be helped or hindered depending on the skill with which entries are made and organized. (3) The cataloging form of entry is one of the poorest ways of listing material for rapid scanning. (4) Library Literature should prefer Readers' Guide style and, in addition, arrange entries in inverse chronological order. It should omit useless expressions like "an evaluative report" as a subtitle and "The division" as a publisher.

Inclusiveness

There are some 176 titles indexed in Library Literature, less than a half of what might be covered, maybe no more than a third. Russian journals, for example, are poorly represented; such titles as the following are not included: Biblioteki SSSR; Bibliotekovedenie i Bibliografiia za rubezhom; Kniga; Poligrafiia; Sovetskaia Bibliografiia; and the Trudy of both the Lenin Library and Library of the Academy of Sciences. There follows a short list of articles from Russian professional journals which therefore are not to be found in Library Literature.

The Bodleian Library
Books and publishing in the Chinese People's Republic
The falsification of history in the Bliss bibliographical classification
The fundamentals of library development in the USSR
The future of scientific and technical books
The German State Library in Berlin
The influence of the Chinese book on the evolution of printing in Japan
The Lenin State Library's activity in the field of international library cooperation
Librarianship in India
Librarianship in Pakistan
Libraries in Finland
Libraries in modern Japan
The National Library in Turkey

On the title-pages of serials
Open access as a system of readers service in Soviet scholarly libraries
Readers services in the newspaper reading room in the Lenin State Library
The role of children's and school libraries in a unified system of children's services
The role of libraries in the system of scientific information
Selective bibliography--one of the main functions of the Lenin State Library
Some problems of Soviet library classification
Soviet library classification for natural science
The system of catalogs in the Lenin State Library
Technical bibliography and information retrieval work in technical libraries

The 1966 edition of Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory lists 224 library-science journals of which 114 are not listed as being covered by Library Literature even though they are indexed in Library Science Abstracts or another standard service. The notable items that Library Literature passes by in the Ulrich listing are not numerous, but they do not include the Bulletin of the Association Canadienne des Bibliothecaires de Langue Francaise; the Bodleian Library Record; the bulletin of the Indian Association of Special Libraries; Municipal Reference Library Notes which is important enough to be indexed in P.A.I.S; and the extremely important Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen. It should be pointed out that some of the titles which Ulrich said were not in Library Literature now are; and that means there is a problem about getting the earlier issues indexed.

A Second Level System

The two great problems of present and future bibliographical control are the quantity and complexity of information. These are both matters in which the computer excels: it can handle quantity with speed and it can find its way through complex situations. But the proposal is not to

provide a computer base for an inclusive Library Literature although such a procedure could be considered in and for itself. The proposal is rather that a complementary computer service be established with streamlined entries for rapid and effective consultation. This service is desirable (1) to serve research needs in the profession and (2) to create a model which could be applied in other fields of information control.

Presumably Library Literature will want to continue with verbal controls: names, titles, and topics. The computer service should be established along different control lines. Pretty surely it should be developed with a mathematical base into which various relational elements can be built. The scheme developed for the Book Catalogue of the library-school library at the University of Western Ontario is an indication of the possibilities that underlie this new type of control. At the moment the Book Catalogue contains no listings of journal articles; but these will be fed into successive editions of the catalog. They will be selective listings, the items that are judged to be of research value. The prospect raises the question of a cooperative computer service, with various library schools undertaking the responsibility for the selective listings and with a constant interchange of tapes for the updating of each local resource. In addition to the cooperative development of the service, the system should be preprogrammed to as great an extent as possible so consultation of the file is as rapid as can be.

Summary of Recommendations

(1) Library Literature should be continued and developed as the inclusive bibliographical control for the library and information field. (2) Its style should change; entries should be more akin to those in the Readers' Guide, (3) very desirably in conjunction with research into the most effective style and type of entry for rapid scanning in long lists. (4) Under any heading entries should be arranged in inverse chronological order. (5) Attention should be paid to semantics so headings will be used reasonably precisely; and (6) to aid in this development semantic studies should be undertaken. (7) In making Library Literature truly comprehensive, consideration should also be given to coverage for the earlier volumes of titles recently incorporated or still to be included. (8) A complementary service should be planned. Undoubtedly this should be a computer record developed and maintained along cooperative lines.

February, 1968